AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 20, as follows:

In the meantime, there is a demand for high-speed recording at a speed higher than 2.4×, and excellent recording, erasure and rewriting characteristics are required also in such a high speed recording operation. However, if recording is performed on the current recording medium, which can be recorded at a speed of 1× to 2.4×, according to the recording strategy which provides the off-pulse in the conventional manner and the recording is at a speed more than the 4× recording speed, a rapid-cooling of the phase change material after being melted by irradiation of the pulse light tends to easily occur. For this reason, a part corresponding to a mark is ~~tuned~~ turned into amorphous excessively, which causes a problem in that the recording characteristics, especially erasing and rewriting characteristics, are deteriorated.

Rewrite the Abstract (page 46) as follows:

An ~~information recording~~ apparatus performs [[an]] excellent recording, erasing and rewriting ~~operation with respect to a recording medium~~, ~~which can be recorded~~ at a recording speed equal to or higher than 4× recording speed without large change in a recording strategy. The ~~information recording~~ apparatus records information on a recording medium by irradiating a pulsed light onto the ~~recording~~ medium. A controller controls an optical head to irradiate the pulsed light so that a length of a recording mark formed on the ~~recording~~ medium is [[an]] n times of a period Tw of a basic clock, where n is a natural number. The controller adds an off-pulse to an end of a final pulse of a train of multi-pulses contained in the pulsed light so that a light having a bias power Pb is irradiated during a period T1 of the off-pulse. The

controller is capable of setting the period T1 of the off-pulse to a predetermined value so that ~~a relationship~~ $0 \leqq T1 < 0.2Tw$ is satisfied.